

III

BOROUGH OF BECCLES



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1972

Municipal Offices,
Blyburgate,
BECCLES,
Suffolk.

B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1972

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Arthur C. Gee M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E. H. Cranmer, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

MEAT INSPECTORS
(Part time)

P. F. Roe, M.R.C.V.S.


W. T. James, B.V.M.S., M.R.C.V.S.

I. Jackson, B. Vet. Med., M.R.C.V.S.
(to 30th April, 1972)

D. J. Watson, B. Vet. Med., M.R.C.V.S.
(from 1st May, 1972)

Municipal Offices,
Blyburgate,
BECCLES,
Suffolk.

Tel. No. Beccles 713113



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BOROUGH OF BECCLES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1972.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Beccles,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough during 1972.

There was an estimated increase in the population of 110 persons; from 8,030 to 8,140. Whilst this is not the highest population recorded in recent years, which was in 1970 at 8,280 persons, it does continue the upward trend of the population, which has been occurring steadily over recent years. Deaths exceeded births by 3, the respective figures being 99 and 96. The presumption is therefore, that an estimated 113 new residents moved into the Borough during the year. The number of inhabited houses, 3092, is the highest so far recorded.

The number of births (96) was slightly lower than the average for recent years. This accords with the pattern in the Country as a whole where births during 1972 were one-eighth less than in the previous year. The adjusted birth rate of 13.1 is below the national rate of 14.8, implying that the average age of the population is above the national average. There were no still births.

Deaths totalled 99, which shows no significant variation from recent years. The adjusted death rate of 10.6 was below the national rate of 12.1. Eighty of the 99 deaths were of people aged 65 and over, and 47 were of persons aged 75 and over. The main causes of death were diseases of the circulatory system (56.5%) and malignant diseases (14.1%).

There was very little infectious disease, only 3 cases of measles being notified during the year. This compares very favourably with the 59 cases of measles recorded the previous year. It is too early yet to say whether inoculation against measles is having a noticeable effect in reducing the incidence of this often quite serious infection. Every effort must continue to be made to encourage parents to have their children immunised against measles in the same way that they now accept the other routine inoculations.

No cases of food poisoning were recorded during the year under review.

The number of people notified as suffering from Tuberculosis declined to 34, but as pointed out in earlier reports, the probability is that most of these cases are people who have been cured of the disease but continue to be under surveillance.

Mr. Cranmer's report covers the Environmental Health work carried out in the Borough during the year and I compliment him on the extent of this work and the detailed way he has presented it in this report.

The re-organisation of Local Government and of the National Health Service, will bring to an end the custom of presenting reports of the nature of this Annual Report, to your Borough. No doubt something similar will take its place to cover the new spheres of local government and health services. Just what the nature of these may be is not clear at the moment. The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health presented a very good outline of the progress made over a wide panorama of service directed at improving the health of the community and the quality of life

of an area's inhabitants. Most of the communal health problems of the past are now well on the way to solution, but new problems have arisen to take their place. Pollution in all its forms, excessive traffic noise, the 'tension' diseases and virus infections, all present problems, the solving of which will contribute greatly to a continued improvement in the quality of life. The solution to some of these may prove even more difficult than those presented by earlier communal health problems. If they are tackled with the same enthusiasm and dedication as was displayed by those health workers who staffed the previous Medical Officer of Health's Department, we shall undoubtedly see worthwhile strides forward in the not-too-distant future.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Arthur C. Gee.

Medical Officer of Health.

July 1973.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,107
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1971)	8,140
Number of inhabited houses	3,158
Rateable Value (December 1972)	£299,857
Product of Penny Rate (To December 1971)	£2,927

	Beccles	England & Wales
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Number	96	725,405
Rate per 1,000 population	11.8	14.8
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u>		
Per cent of total live births	8.0	9.0
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>		
Number	---	8,794
Rate per 1,000 of total live and still births	---	12.8
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (Deaths under 1 year)	3	12,494
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>		
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	31	17
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	23	17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125	21
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	21	12
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	21	10
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	21	22
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u> (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	None	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	---	

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	TOTAL
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Total	46	50	96
Legitimate	43	45	88
Illegitimate	3	5	8
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Total	--	--	--
Legitimate	--	--	--
Illegitimate	--	--	--
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>			
Total	1	2	3
Legitimate	--	2	2
Illegitimate	1	--	1
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE</u>			
Total	1	1	2
Legitimate	--	1	1
Illegitimate	1	--	1
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE</u>			
Total	1	1	2
Legitimate	--	1	1
Illegitimate	1	--	1
DEATHS - ALL AGES	52	47	99

RATES	Beccles	England & Wales
Adjusted Birth Rate	13.1	14.8
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ..	12.2	12.1
Adjusted Death Rate	10.6	12.1
Comparability Factor (Births) 1.11 Comparability Factor (Deaths) .86		

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	TOTAL
Late effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	--	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	--	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	--	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus		2	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	3	6
Diabetes Mellitus	--	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	--	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	18	8	26
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	8	10
Cerebrovascular Disease	11	7	18
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	1	2
Influenza	1	--	1
Pneumonia	5	7	12
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	1	3
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	--	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	--	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	--	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	--	1	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	--	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	52	47	99

AGE AT DEATH

Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year	Age in Years									
		1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 and over	TOTAL
2	1	--	--	--	--	1	3	12	33	47	99

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATH

Less than 1 day	-	Congenital Heart Disease
- do -	-	Broncho-pneumonia.
Five Months	-	Congenital Heart Disease.

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS DURING THE YEARS 1955 - 1972

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION
1955	1	1	2	0.28
1956	1	-	1	0.13
1957	2	1	3	0.43
1958	-	-	-	Nil
1959	4	-	4	0.57
1960	2	1	3	0.43
1961	3	-	3	0.40
1962	5	-	5	0.68
1963	2	-	2	0.27
1964	4	-	4	0.53
1965	3	1	4	0.52
1966	3	-	3	0.38
1967	2	1	3	0.38
1968	3	2	5	0.63
1969	3	-	3	0.36
1970	4	2	6	0.72
1971	3	2	5	0.62
1972	1	3	4	0.49
TOTAL	46	14	60	

ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATE: COMPARABILITY FACTOR

Local birth rates are expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar-General and comprise persons of all ages, including those who have no influence on the birth rate. These latter do, however, effect the birth rate in that a high proportion of them in a population tends to lower, and a small proportion tends to raise the true rate. The size of this proportion will vary in different areas and, therefore, the elimination or standardization of such a factor will give a truer comparison between areas.

The Registrar-General issues a comparability factor on these lines. Multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by the comparability factor gives the adjusted birth rate and can be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales.

The comparability factor for deaths is obtained in a similar way to that above. The factors for certain areas, where rapid increase or reduction in the population affects its comparison by sex and age groups are also adjusted on that account. Death rate area comparability factors are adjusted to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. Birth rate comparability factors are also adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile populations in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

TABLE SHOWING THE MORE IMPORTANT CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGE

CAUSE OF DEATH	NO. OF DEATHS		PERCENTAGE	
	1971	1972	1971	1972
Diseases of circulatory system	35	57	37.63%	56.5%
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	--	2.15%	--
Malignant Diseases	24	14	25.81%	14.1%
Pneumonia & Bronchitis	6	15	6.45%	15.0%
Influenza	--	1	--	1.0%
All other causes	26	12	27.96%	13.4%
TOTAL	93	99	100	100

	YEAR																			
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971 Census	1972
Population	7050	7130	7060	7000	6980	6960	6960	7040	7330	7400	7440	7520	7640	7730	7850	7990	8150	8280	8030	8140
No. of inhabited houses	2520	2550	2580	2590	2603	2606	2641	2637	2690	2739	2748	2805	2820	2820	2910	2948	2992	3023	3092	3158
Number of Live Births	99	95	75	87	96	100	99	88	115	113	104	126	107	113	107	104	128	113	109	96
Birth Rate (Crude)	14.2	13.5	10.5	10.5	12.3	13.7	14.3	14.2	12.5	13.6	15.3	16.7	14.0	14.6	13.6	13.0	15.7	13.6	13.6	11.8
Number of Still Births	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	1	3	3	3	4	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Maternal Mortality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate	-	10.5	26.7	34.5	20.8	-	30.3	22.7	17.4	17.7	19.2	31.0	9.3	-	-	19.	23.	9.	18.	31.
Number of Deaths (Infants)	-	1	2	3	2	-	3	2	2	2	2	4	1	-	-	2	3	1	2	3
Number of Deaths (all ages)	82	103	107	112	81	95	97	81	97	104	125	90	90	97	100	95	77	101	93	99
Death Rate (crude)	11.7	14.6	15.0	15.8	11.6	13.6	13.9	11.5	13.2	14.0	16.8	11.9	11.8	12.5	12.6	11.9	9.4	12.2	11.6	12.2

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO MONTH OF OCCURENCE

	MEASLES
January	
February	1
March	
April	
May	2
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
TOTAL	3

NUMBER OF ALL CONFIRMED CASES OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE
DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1972 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

AGE	MEASLES		
	M	F	TOTAL
Under 1	-	-	-
1 -	1	-	1
2 -	-	-	-
3 -	-	-	-
4 -	1	-	1
5 - 9	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	-	1
25 - 44	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	-	3

<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>	MALES		FEMALES		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	TOTAL
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December 1971	13	3	1	5	22
No. of cases added during the year	-	-	-	-	-
No. of cases removed during the year	-	-	1	-	1
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December 1972	13	3	-	5	21

One female patient, aged 78, notified in 1961 as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, died during the year. The cause of death was stated to be - "Acute heart failure due to Cardiac infarction".

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1972

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my twenty-third Annual Report since my appointment in May 1949 as the Council's Public Health Inspector.

Responsibility for the enforcement of Public Health legislation will be transferred to the Waveney Council on 1st April, 1974, so this is likely to be the last such report that I shall make to the Borough Council. In the hope that it might be helpful to the new Council and my successor, I have not only commented on events in 1972, but have given some of the background to the current public health position in the Borough.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Circular 1/73 from the Department of Health & Social Security asks that particular regard be paid in annual reports to the adequacy of sewerage and sewage disposal.

Sewerage and sewage disposal are the responsibility of the Borough Engineer (S.C. Bromley Esq., M.I.M.E., M.I.H.E.)

Upon his recommendations, sewerage has been progressively extended in recent years, and when his latest proposals are implemented, only the under-mentioned areas will remain unsewered:-

	<u>Properties</u>
The Common	3
Darby Road	4
Bungay Road	1
Ringsfield Road	4
Total	<u>12</u>

In these instances, very lengthy runs of sewer would be needed to benefit few properties, and the cost per house in consequence would be considerable. It may be that further development will make the sewerage of some of these areas a better economic proposition in the not-too-distant future.

Until 1969 sewage gravitated to Common Lane North whence it was pumped to a series of lagoons which were little better than uncovered cesspools. The only treatment was a rudimentary sedimentation, and there was a serious nuisance in the northern part of the town. Quite predictably, the effluent was grossly unsatisfactory both in respect of suspended solids and biological oxygen demand.

Since the new works were opened, sewage gravitates to a new pumping station, adjoining the old, from where it is pumped about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the works at Marsh Lane, Worlingham in the adjoining Wainford Rural District.

Treatment consists of:-

Balancing Tanks
Mechanical Rakes

Detritus Channels
Storm Water Overflow and Tanks
Percolating Filters
Humus Tanks

Sludge is stored in two tanks and after treatment with chemicals, is passed over a vacuum filter.

The works were designed in the first instance for a population of 9,000 the equivalent daily dry weather flow of sewage and trade waste being some 720,000 gallons per day. Provision has been made so that the works can easily be extended to accommodate provision for a population of 10,000, or a dry weather flow of 890,000 gallons per day.

The effluent is regularly sampled and invariably complies with the stringent Royal Commission Standard.

The very considerable number of people who visit Beccles in cruisers during the holiday months has caused problems. Hitherto, cruisers discharged their waste directly into the river, and a position arose which was quite disgusting aesthetically, and a potential health hazard.

Some idea of the extent of the problem may be gained from the fact that during 1972, some 7,000 boats (an average of about 50 per day during the summer season) moored at the Council Quay. If one adds boats mooring at other places on the river, it will be appreciated that at any time during the summer months, the equivalent of the population of a sizeable village was discharging untreated waste material direct into the river.

By-laws by the River Authority now require cruisers to have sealed conservancy sanitary accommodation, and the Council has provided emptying facilities connected to the sewerage system of the Quay.

This long overdue public health reform must have a wholly beneficial effect on the cleanliness of the River Waveney, on which so much of the charm of Beccles depends.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied to the Borough by East Anglian Water Company. The following report has kindly been supplied by their Chief Engineer, K.B. Clarke Esq., B.Sc., (Eng.) F.I.C.E., F.I.W.E., M.R.S.H., F.G.S. :-

- 1) "The water supplied to the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
14 Bacteriological samples and 2 chemical samples were taken from the Borough during 1972 and I enclose a photostat copy of one of each.
- 2) There has been no contamination during the year.
- 3) 3,000 dwelling houses and 69 combined shops and dwelling houses are connected to the mains. An extra 14 premises are supplied by standpipes.
- 4) No fluoride samples were taken from the Borough during 1972. A sample taken from the water leaving Barsham in January 1973 shows a fluoride content of 0.3 p.p.m.

All the water supplied to Beccles during 1972 came from Barsham and its satellite boreholes."

BACTERIOLOGICAL
EXAMINATION
OF WATER

LINCOLNE SUTTON AND WOOD LTD

CLARENCE HOUSE

Analytical and Consulting Chemists

CLARENCE ROAD

NORWICH, NOR 29T

Cert. No. Z.710 Lab. No. 5902/W 30th June, 1972

Fee: £3.00

Sample Submitted by East Anglian Water Company

Collected from 23 Smallgate, Beccles. on 26th June 1972

Mark	Colonies per ml. on agar at 37°C.		Probable No. per 100 ml.	
	24 hours	48 hours	Presumptive Coliforms	E. Coli Type 1
Treated Water	Nil	Nil	Nil	

Remarks This result is very satisfactory.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

Thresh House, Verulam Street,
Gray's Inn Road, LONDON, WXIX 8NB.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received 21.6.72 Our Ref B/R/814
 from EAST ANGLIAN WATER COMPANY
 Labelled Company Office - Blyburgate, Beccles. Basin Tap -
 Beccles Res. low level. Date 21.6.72, 9.55 a.m.
 Taken by C. Perrett Witness R. Cooke Signed C. Perrett

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN MILLIGRAMMES PER LITRE

Appearance Clear and bright
 Turbidity (A.P.H.A. units) Nil
 Colour (Hazen) Nil Odour Nil
 pH 7.4 Free Carbon Dioxide 20
 Electrical Conductivity 780 Dissolved Solids dried at 560
 Reciprocal Megohms per cm at 20°C 180°C
 Chlorine in Chloride 74 Alkalinity as Ca CO₃ 245
 Hardness as Ca CO₃: Total 395 Carbonate 245 Non-carbonate 150
 Nitrogen in Nitrate 0.5 Nitrogen in Nitrite Absent
 Ammoniacal Nitrogen 0.00 Permanganate Value 0.40
 4 hrs. at 27°C
 Albuminoid Nitrogen 0.00 Residual Chlorine 0.06
 Metals Iron: 0.06
 Zinc: 0.07 Copper, lead, manganese : Absent
 ("Absent" refers to a detection limit of 0.03 of each metal unless otherwise stated)
 Cadmium: Not detected, less than 0.01

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

	(1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20-22°C.
Number of colonies developing on agar	0	0	450
	per ml	per ml	per ml
	Present in	Absent in	Most probable number.
Presumptive Coliform reaction	ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
E. Coli. (Type 1)	ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Cl. welchii reaction	ml	100 ml	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from very minute traces of iron and zinc. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not considered excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic use.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection and disposal are the responsibility of the Borough Engineer.

Collection is weekly "from the back door". Disposal is by controlled tipping on the marsh estate of the Council. This has enabled the level of low lying land adjoining the River Waveney to be raised and the area developed as an extension to the Quay - the main amenity area of the Borough.

Present proposals are that with Local Government Re-organisation, refuse collection shall be the responsibility of the District Council while its disposal shall be that of the County Authority. Superficially this seems a rather surprising and illogical division of responsibility.

However, the merging of refuse disposal into larger units may enable more sophisticated methods, such as pulverisation or incineration to be undertaken. Whilst it might be difficult on economic grounds to justify the great expense of such treatment in a Borough of the size of Beccles, it should be well within the capability of the larger Authorities.

No doubt this in part accounts for the Government's decision.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Borough is fortunate in having clean industries and in being surrounded by miles of open Norfolk and Suffolk countryside, and it cannot be said that atmospheric pollution is a major public health problem. Complaints were received during the year of the intermittent emission of smoke from one factory, and dust from a second. Representations to the managements have resulted in some improvement, but the inherent difficulty of industry being sited in too close proximity to dwelling houses remains.

Any report on atmospheric pollution or pollution by noise would be incomplete without a reference to the disastrous effect on the quality of life in Beccles caused by motor traffic. The problem is not peculiar to Beccles but is intensified by the narrowness of the streets and pavements and the town's geographical position, situated as it is on a major traffic route between the Midlands and the growing East Anglian ports and holiday resorts.

The provision of a by-pass to the Borough is of course, primarily, a traffic and planning matter but public health implications must give added weight to the evidence adduced in its support.

The Council has taken the only steps open to it at present - the provision of exceptionally generous and readily accessible car parking facilities. However, if Beccles is to be developed for the benefit of the people who live in it and not round the needs of road traffic, it seems inevitable that we motorists will have to forego our selfish insistence on the right to park within a few yards of our destination, and accept the concept of traffic free areas in the town, approached on foot from existing car parks.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The pollution of atmosphere by smell from a by-products factory has been a source of contention for many years. The premises are subject to a "Consent to Operate Offensive Trade" under the provisions of Section 107 of the Public Health Act 1936.

On two occasions, in 1970 and 1971, the Council refused to re-issue the Consent and the owners appealed to the Magistrates' Court. In each case the Bench directed the Council to issue the Consent for a period of six months.

On the expiry of the second period the position was still not acceptable to the Council and they again with-held the Consent. The appeal was heard in November 1972, and on this occasion the Bench upheld the Council's refusal and awarded them costs.

Notice of Appeal to the Crown Court has now been received, and it is anticipated it will be heard in 1973.

BATHING POOLS

One local school, thanks to the efforts of the staff, and pupils, and their parents, has provided its own heated swimming pool, complete with water purification plant. It is understood that a second school hopes to provide similar facilities in the near future.

The Council owned swimming pool in Puddingmoor was opened in 1959 to replace the former pool which it has been possible to demonstrate was incriminated in the spread of salmonella infection. The following description is included at the request of the Department of Health and Social Security.

It is situated in Puddingmoor by the River Waveney, near the centre of the Town, measures 100 ft. by 50 ft. and is 3 ft. deep at the shallow end. There is a 12 ft. diving pit at the deep end. It is constructed of re-inforced concrete, finished in blue enamel, with a perimeter scum channel. There is a footbath at the entrance to the Pool, and spectators are separated from the surround by a guard rail. Electricity and mains water supply are available.

The Pool is filled at the beginning of the season by mains water supply. Treatment is by filtration, aeration cascade and break-point chlorination, with chemical dosage of soda and alumina to control pH. The water is changed every seven hours at a rate of 524 gallons per minute. "Topping up" is from the mains water supply.

A paddling pool for young children is provided to relieve congestion at the shallow end.

New sanitary accommodation and washing facilities have recently been provided and it is proposed to replace the changing accommodation which is the only remaining legacy of the old swimming pool.

Samples submitted for bacteriological examination showed that the water in the pool was literally fit for drinking.

There has been a widespread demand that the water in the swimming pool should be heated to enable it to be opened throughout the year and this possibility is currently under consideration by the Council.

HOUSING ACT 1957

THE DEMOLITION OF UNFIT PROPERTY

During the year, four unfit houses which had been purchased by the Council were demolished, permitting the extension of the Newgate Car Park. A further two houses, the subject of Closing Orders, were converted into one fit dwelling with the help of an Improvement Grant.

One hundred and forty dwellings have been dealt with under the demolition or closure procedures of the Housing Acts during recent years. In the great majority of cases the tenants have been rehoused and the property demolished.

In appropriate cases, the Council has acquired unfit property by negotiation with the owners, to permit the sites to be developed for the good of the community, and some worthwhile improvements to the town have resulted. Examples are the provision of the Hungate Lane and Newgate Car Parks, the extension of the Quay, the provision of Council flats in Grove Road and numerous road improvements.

The worst areas of unfit housing have been abolished and there remain only eight houses, the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders, where the situation is still unresolved.

The cost of new house provision, the generous improvement grants now available, and the social problems which **are** sometimes engendered by removing occupiers from familiar surroundings, have all resulted in a change of emphasis from demolition to conservation. In consequence it appears unlikely that there will be a resumption of the extensive demolition of areas of unfit property in the Borough in the foreseeable future.

THE REPAIR OF DEFECTIVE HOUSES

The enforcement of the repair of houses which are defective but capable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense, is an almost daily task in this and every Public Health Department.

The chief difficulty has been caused by the restriction of rents as contrasted to the continually escalating cost of repairs and it will be interesting to see whether the Government's "Fair Rent" policy will provide the solution to a problem which has plagued this aspect of housing work for years.

If it does not do so, the present trend towards the sale of rented houses by landlords when they gain possession will continue, and rented property will be almost entirely Council owned in future.

HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

Standard grants towards the cost of installing the undermentioned amenities are available to property owners as a right:-

- a) A fixed bath or shower in a bathroom.
- b) A wash hand basin.
- c) A sink.
- d) Hot and cold water supply at the fixed bath or shower, the wash hand basin and the sink.
- e) An internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet.

Discretionary grants to enable more extensive works are payable, as the name implies, at the discretion of the Council.

During 1972, six standard grants and sixty-nine discretionary grants were approved. For some years now an average of more than one house per week has been brought up to modern standards with the aid of a grant.

The major difficulty has been that unmodernised houses are often occupied by elderly tenants of long standing, whose consent to improvements is a pre-requisite

of any action by the owner or the Council. Very frequently and understandably, they feel unable to face up to the upheaval necessarily caused by the improvement of their house and the increased rent which is payable as a result.

The present procedure for enforcing the improvement of a rented house when the owner cannot be persuaded to do so is cumbersome in the extreme. In Beccles, we have reached the position where it would be quite practicable to insist that a house without the basic amenities listed is "Unfit for human habitation" and susceptible to the legal processes applicable to such a house.

This does not seem an unreasonable demand to make in 1973, indeed it seems a bizarre situation that whilst most families have such amenities as a television set, many still have to fill a tin bath with hot water boiled in kettles or the domestic washing copper, and wash at the kitchen sink.

PROVISION OF COUNCIL HOUSING

The Council own 817 of the 3,150 houses in the Borough - well over one quarter. Almost all have been built since the war to modern standards. The few pre-war houses owned by the Council are progressively being modernised.

Due to various difficulties, Council house building has stopped in recent years but the administrative work towards the provision of a further 100 municipal houses has now been completed and their erection should be starting in the near future.

One of the most interesting developments in the housing field in recent years has been the building by the Council of Tan House which was opened in 1970. It consists of ~~thirty~~-six centrally heated flats, with warden's accommodation, common room, television room, and a furnished bedroom always kept available for the use of guests. The occupiers can keep their small treasured possessions and retain their independence, but companionship and the help of the warden are readily available should they be required.

There can be little doubt that many elderly people in the Borough are living in accommodation which is far too big, and quite unsuited to their needs, particularly in respect of space heating. Not only has Tan House provided several of them with a new lease of life in comfortable and appropriate surroundings, but it has released the houses which they formerly occupied for improvement, and a more suitable occupation.

The proportion of retired people in the population is increasing yearly, and there can be little doubt that the provision of purpose built accommodation of this type will be an increasing need in the future.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

At the request of the Department of Health and Social Security, I formally report that there are no common lodging houses in the Borough.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

One full time rodent operator, who also deals with numerous miscellaneous other duties is employed by the Council.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1970

The following is a record of food preparing premises in the Borough in the form required by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Food preparing factories	- 1
Dairies	- 3
Butchers Shops	- 11
Groceries	- 28
Fish and Chip Shops	- 4
Hotels, Cafes, Restaurants	- 15
Public Houses	- 17
Fishmongers	- 3
Bakers	- 2

The co-operation of the proprietors of these businesses has been readily forthcoming when informal suggestions have been made to them about the conduct of their businesses, and it was not found necessary during the year to take formal action.

POULTRY PROCESSING FACTORIES

I formally report that there are no such premises in the Borough.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two slaughterhouses in Beccles.

The Beccles Abattoir is owned by Messrs. Swift and Company Limited who are among the largest meat distributors in the world. The premises account for the great majority of meat inspection carried out.

The second slaughterhouse is owned by Messrs. W. J. Seppings who supply meat to four local butchers' shops.

MEAT INSPECTION

Meat inspection and the enforcement of legislation pertaining to slaughterhouses is enforced at Beccles Abattoir by Messrs. Roe and James, a local three-man veterinary practice who are employed on a part time basis by the Council exclusively for this work. The Public Health Inspector is responsible for meat inspection at Messrs. W. J. Seppings' slaughterhouse.

Details of meat inspection during the year are as follows:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed	11,444	34	190	47,701
No. Inspected	11,444	34	190	47,701
Whole Carcases condemned:				
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Other Causes	40	-	-	157
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:				
Tuberculosis	1	-	-	12
Other Causes	2,451	-	-	1,974

DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND FOOD

In addition to the diseased or otherwise unsound meat listed, some three hundred items of unfit food were voluntarily submitted for examination and where appropriate surrendered to the local authority.

Almost all unsound food was dealt with at the Norfolk Animal Products factory where treatment includes exposure to such high temperatures as will render it sterile. The plant performs a valuable public health function by re-cycling potentially offensive and hazardous material into commercially valuable products.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAYS PREMISES ACT

The following is an extract from the report to the Department of Employment and Productivity on work carried out under this Act during 1972.

	TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR	NUMBER OF REGISTERED PREMISES RECEIVING ONE OR MORE GENERAL INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR
Offices	27	14
Retail Shops	81	74
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	6	6
Catering Premises	8	8
Fuel Storage Depots.	2	2
TOTAL	124	104

Number of Persons Employed

Offices	119
Retail Shops	371
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	24
Catering Establishments	51
Fuel Storage Depots.	9
	<hr/> 574 <hr/>

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The following report on work carried out under this Act is submitted in the form required by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Part 1 of the Act

- 1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	-	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	26	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	51	26	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

(1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector. (4)	By H.M. Inspector. (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector.	
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to ourwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act

There were four outworkers in the Borough, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

There were no cases of default in sending lists to the Council, and no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

E. H. CRANMER.

JULY 1973.

Public Health Inspector.

ADDENDUM TO THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE
YEAR 1972

Since the preparation of the foregoing report, further results of the Census carried out in July 1971 have become available. We feel that the following information extracted from them might be of interest.

Population

Of the population of 8,015, the number of residents of retiring age and above is 1,555 - that is 19.4%. This co-incides almost exactly with our estimate given to the Council, that one fifth of the population is in this age group.

The proportion is rising yearly, as more and more people are living longer, thanks to better standards of living, improved environmental conditions, and advances in the treatment of the sick and elderly.

Very considerable progress has been made in the Borough in recent years by the provision of purpose designed bungalows and flats, and the building of sheltered accommodation at Tan House. With the whole hearted support of many official and voluntary organisations, the Waveney Centre has been opened as a much needed social and recreational centre for the retired. The County Council Home for the elderly in need of care and attention will shortly be opened at Ringsfield Road.

It is to be hoped that this concern will be continued by the new authorities, for justice demands that the community should devote more thought to, and expend more of its resources on, the welfare of its increasing numbers of senior citizens.

Tenure of Dwellings

The Census Return gives the following information:-

Total Tenures	-	2,910	
Owner Occupiers	-	1,400	- 48.11%
Council Owned	-	825	- 28.35%
Private Landlord or Housing Association:-			
Unfurnished	-	645	- 22.16%
Furnished	-	30	- 1.03%

These figures do not tally exactly with those given in our report since they refer to different dates; houses not occupied at the time of the census are not included, and there are slightly differing interpretations of the word 'Tenures'.

The figures underline a trend to which we have referred on many occasions. Not many years ago, the majority of working class houses were rented from a private landlord. The indications are that in the not-too-distant future, almost all housing will be either owner-occupied or Council owned.

Provision of Amenities

The figures for the Borough are as follows:-

Total Tenures	-	2,910	
Exclusive Use of:-			
Hot Water Supply	-	2,610	= 89.7%
Bath or Shower	-	2,540	= 87.3%
Internal Water Closet	-	2,435	= 83.7%
Hot Water, Fixed Bath and Internal Water Closet	-	2,360	= 81.1%

Since the date of the Census, several unfit houses have been demolished, other houses have been improved, and new houses have been built. The figures include hotels, caravan sites and other accommodation where amenities are usually shared. As pointed out earlier, many houses are unmodernised as a result of a choice quite rightly given to the householder.

The trend is quite unmistakable. Not many years ago, a fixed bath, a constant supply of hot water and similar amenities were the prerogative of the better-off section of the community. More and more, and quite justifiably, they are being demanded, and provided, as essential ingredients of a civilised way of life.

A. C. Gee

Medical Officer of Health.

E. H. Cranmer

Public Health Inspector.

August 1973.

